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## AutoMark Ballot Marking Device for Individuals with Disabilities

The AutoMark Ballot Marking Device is designed to provide accessibility to voters with disabilities. The voting machine is equipped with a touch screen monitor, Braille key pad, head phone jack and access port for a puff-sip device.

The AutoMark Ballot Marking Device has been utilized in Erie County since the 2006 election. The November 4, 2008, general election will deploy a fully accessible voting machine in each of the County's 353 polling locations. An automatic lever machine will also be present in each polling location.

From Grand Island to Sardinia every voter, regardless of their limitations, is encouraged to cast their vote. All of the election day Inspectors have received training on how to use the AutoMark so they will be able to help any voter who requires assistance.

A video demonstration of the AutoMark can be found at [www.vote-ny.com](http://www.vote-ny.com).

Please contact the Board of Elections at 858-7786 or the Erie County Office for the Disabled at 858-6215 with any questions or to arrange for a demonstration.



**The AutoMark Ballot Marking Device**



## Election Day November 4

# 2008 County Executive Awards Dinner

## In Honor of Nat'l Disabilities Employment Awareness Month

On Tuesday October 7, 2008, the following six individuals with disabilities received the County Executive Award for outstanding job performance in their given field: **Jason Wolfe, Karen Kane, Lee Fullenweider, Karl Shallowhorn, Julie Schulz and Christian Minkler.**

The dinner was held at Columns Banquet Facility in Elma, New York. The event was sponsored by the Buffalo Bills, Buffalo Wheelchair, Verizon, Wegmans, West Herr, Elaine's Flower Shoppe and Rich Products.

After a wonderful dinner, Tara Minogue from Bello Voice Studio sang "We Are the Champions," which was an appropriate song for the occasion. Following that, there was an audio-visual presentation featuring the award winners, which was produced by Richard Derwald and narrated by Tony Oster.

Each award winner received a plaque, which was presented to them by County Executive Chris Collins.

A highlight of the evening was the appearance of guest speaker Chris Kelsay, Defensive End for the Buffalo Bills, who captivated the audience with his speech.

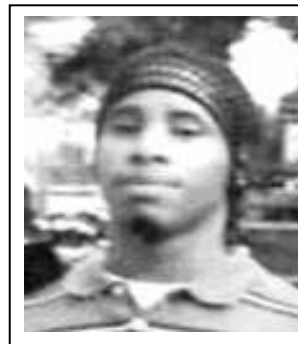
Closing remarks were given by Emily Kaznica, Executive Director of the Office for the Disabled. She thanked everyone for taking part in the evening, and gave special recognition to the sponsors of the event.



Jason Wolfe



Karen Kane



Lee Fullenweider



Karl Shallowhorn



Julie Schulz



Christian Minkler



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Please contact ECOD  
at 716-858-6233



## Taxpayer Alert!

There has been a change in the date to file for a Real Property Tax Exemption. Taxable Status date for the 25 towns located in Erie County has been changed from May 1, of any given year to March 1, effective January 1, 2009. This will move the assessment calendar up by two months.

Therefore, taxpayers filing REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION, for example STAR, AGED EXEMPTION, VETERANS EXEMPTIONS, DISABILITY, AGRICULTURAL, BUSINESS INVESTMENT EXEMPTION; must file or renew their exemption on or before **March 1, 2009**.

This will effect the date that taxpayers can challenge assessments through the Town Board of Assessment Review, the old law set grievance day as the first Tuesday in June. Therefore, for 2009, grievance date for the 25 towns will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in May. For 2009, that date will be **May 26, 2009**.

This change does not apply to the Cities of Buffalo, Lackawanna, or City of Tonawanda. They operate under City Charter. Contact the appropriate City Assessor for filing deadlines.



## Robert Warner, MD Center for Children with Special Needs

The Robert Warner, MD Center for Children with Special Needs at Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo, has been providing comprehensive diagnostic, evaluative and therapeutic rehabilitation service to children with known or suspected disabilities in Western New York since 1956.

A qualified and diverse staff provides comprehensive rehabilitation services for children with known or suspected disabilities in Western New York and surrounding areas through the Robert Warner, MD Center for the Children with Special Needs of Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo, including diagnostic, evaluative and therapeutic services.

Services are family-focused and provided in conjunction with pediatricians and community resources. Each clinic or program within the Center is comprised of an interdisciplinary team of specialists specifically selected to meet each child's needs, with the health of the whole child a primary focus.

Programs provide comprehensive evaluations and ongoing assessments for enrolled children, with families highly involved in learning about the nature of the needs of their children.

For a complete listing of services provided at Robert Warner, MD Center for Children with Special Needs please call 878-1260 or visit our website at [www.kaleidahealth.org](http://www.kaleidahealth.org).



## Promoting Home Ownership for People with Developmental Disabilities

Thanks to a generous 3-year/30,000 grant from the M&T Charitable Foundation, non-profit Belmont Housing Resources for WNY is now offering a major home ownership education initiative specifically designed to enhance homeownership opportunity among individuals with developmental disabilities, a long-underserved population that has enjoyed comparatively fewer opportunities to move toward purchasing residential property.

The Home of Your Own (HOYO) Buyer Club for the Developmentally Disabled was developed under the auspices of the Housing Independence Action Committee (HIAC) through the collaborative efforts of a group of agencies that in addition to Belmont included ASPIRE of WNY, Consumer Credit Counseling, Erie County's Department of Planning, the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State and the WNY Developmental Disabilities Services Office.

HOYO Home Buyer Club members, who include persons with developmental disabilities currently living independently either with rental assistance or through New York's Self-Advocacy Program, meet monthly to participate in a wide range of home ownership related workshops, counseling and other activities. Meetings cover such topics as effective money and credit management, identifying and creating support networks, traditional and non-traditional credit, and the basics of finding and securing a mortgage.

Although the program has been underway since January, Belmont indicates that there are still opportunities for new participants to become involved. There are currently two groups that meet at Belmont's 1195 Main Street Buffalo office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, one at 11:00 a.m. and the other at 5:30 p.m. Anyone with an interest either in joining the program now or potentially participating in future classes, for which funding is currently being sought, is encouraged to call Belmont's Melody Anne Marchese at 884-2358 ext. 105/TDD 711.

*The Erie County Office for the Disabled makes no endorsement of products or programs described.  
This publication is for informational purposes only.*

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED